

GODMANCHESTER PARISH NEWS**The Vicar's Letter**

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, our new curate Mary Jepp will have been with us officially for just a few days. It is such a joy to welcome Mary and her family to the family of St Mary's, and a great privilege to be able to work with her as she begins her ordained ministry. I know we are all going to enjoy Mary's company and benefit greatly from her many gifts. I am also very confident that St Mary's and the wider Godmanchester community will take her and her family to their hearts and give her all the encouragement and support she needs. This will obviously be a new experience for Mary – and it should not be forgotten that it is a new experience for all her family, not least for her husband Mike, who never expected when he married her to end up as what he calls 'a vicar's wife'. It is also a new experience for me. I am fairly sure that we have been lucky enough to 'get' Mary not so much because of anything I can offer as because this parish is used to receiving curates and can give them a warm welcome and show them a vibrant slice of Church of England parish life 'in the round'. So I hope no-one will mind too much if I remind you what a curate is, and is not.

The main thing to remember is that Mary is here to continue her training in ministry, not as an 'extra pair of hands' for me. All newly-ordained ministers must spend a few years as a curate before taking on the responsibility for a parish, or moving on to some other kind of ministry. Mary, in common with all beginning their ordained ministry, is first made a deacon, not a priest. A deacon is a member of the clergy, addressed formally as Reverend and wearing a dog collar, but is not able to celebrate Holy Communion, pronounce blessings or absolutions, or (normally) conduct weddings. He or she can lead any other kind of service, preach, take funerals and baptisms, and do all the other things that might be expected of any member of the clergy. Almost without exception, a deacon is ordained priest after a year. Mary will probably be with us for three full years. Sometime in her fourth year, we will have to release Mary to her next appointment, whatever that might be.

Mary comes to us with a great deal of experience, as a Christian, a teacher, and a Reader, besides all that has gone before in her life to bring her to this point. She is not starting with a blank slate, by any means, but it is an overwhelming and life-changing experience to receive ordination, and she will need the support and love of us all to help her become the minister God has called her to be. Mary, God bless you and Mike, Robin and Toby. We are delighted you are here, and look forward eagerly to sharing with you in the life of God in Godmanchester.

With love,

David

G O D M A N C H E S T E R P A R I S H N E W S**This month's cover**

It's that time of year again ... Details of all Gala Day and Picnic in the Park events in *The Bridge*. Many thanks to everyone who works in the background to make Worship in the Park a Churches Together success.

Mothers' Union

At the June meeting our proposed speaker was unable to come as her husband had broken his shoulder and he was her only means of transport. Jean White stepped nobly into the breach and gave a very interesting talk about her experiences while living in Africa.

She had moved out there when her first two children were very small and she had no idea what to expect. Pat had gone out first and so she arrived to find him settled in good accommodation. When Jean asked to see the kitchen though, eyes were raised in horror. 'The mistress never went into the kitchen,' she was told. Not to be daunted Jean insisted and was taken to a sort of concrete shed at the bottom of the garden. In turn her eyes (and hands) were raised in horror. The food was cooked on an old fashioned wood burning range and as a result the room and the range were covered with the soot of ages. Cobwebs abounded and the wooden sink was alive with cockroaches. Some old grey rags hung dejectedly from a dirty piece of string and Jean surmised correctly that these were the tea towels. Clearly something

had to be done! Of course all became clear when Jean became aware of how the native population lived. They had a house with one room in which they slept and stored their belongings and they lived outside on a veranda. They cooked on an open fire using sticks as implements and when the meal was ready banana leaves were used as plates and food was eaten with the fingers. The used leaves were then burnt. Great, no washing up!

Of course Jean got the kitchen cleaned. She showed them how to polish the range, use a bowl in the sink and put out clean tea towels daily.

There was no milk so one used Carnation or dried. The bread was dire so, as fresh yeast was freely available, Jean quickly learned to bake her own and there was no problem about the bread rising. Jean kept us enthralled for ages with her story and we were still talking and asking questions through tea-time.

The next meeting on 1 July will take place at St Anne's School where the children will entertain us once again.

Jean Morgan

**The Salvation Army
Silver Street**

Coffee Morning
Every Tuesday 10.00 am to 12 noon

Everyone welcome!

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Wives' Group

Wives' Group members and a few accompanying gentlemen were blessed with a glorious warm and sunny June evening for a visit to Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. We were welcomed by Jim Stevenson, the warden, who gave a short presentation about the development of the reserve from former gravel pits, and future plans for expansion. At present the area covered is 192 acres but will extend to 700 acres over the next ten years as the phased release of quarried land is handed over to the reserve.

The reserve is already ideal for plants and wildlife and we divided into two groups for the nightingale and the meadow walks. During our leisurely stroll we were treated to the expert knowledge of our guides as we viewed many species of birds and plants. The highlights were the sighting of a kingfisher and hearing a nightingale's delightful song.

A walk through the different areas of the reserve would be delightful at any time but thanks to the extra information imparted by our guides, Jim Stevenson and volunteers David Butterworth and Trevor Gunton, it became a most memorable visit, which we would love to repeat.

Visit www.paxton-pits.org.uk for further information.

Next month we will hold our Charity Coffee evening at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 8 July at 49 London Road. All are

welcome to support us in raising funds for The Cheshire home at Brampton.

Barbara Thirlwall

Men's Social Group

This miserable summer has claimed yet another victim. On 3 June the group's BBQ in Allen Farm Close, hosted superbly by John and Bizz Thackray, was driven inside by cold winds and driving rain. The views towards Farm Hall and the Corpus Christie meadow are a never-ending surprise from this corner of Godmanchester, and it was a shame we were not in the garden to enjoy them. But our disappointment was short lived. Awaiting us in the dining room were gently grilled sausages and steaks, freshly baked bread, summer salads and a variety of cheeses, all beautifully set out on a long dining table, and delightfully served by Bizz and her friends. What a treat! But perhaps the *pieces de resistance* were the fresh fruit puddings, imaginatively presented on large platters in the style of our Spanish neighbours, and works of art in themselves. And *so* colourful that one sensed the hand of a former President of the Flower Guild must have been at work here. (Following on from our splendiferous Christmas dinner in Porch Close, the Men's Group, for so long the humble humpers and heavers of the church and churchyard, is in danger of transmogrifying itself into a rather smart gentlemen's dining-out club! Tut. Tut. Whatever next?) After a generous vote of thanks from our chairman, this splendid evening reluctantly drew to a

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close, and we headed home, the greener members among us perhaps a little wobblier than usual on our cycles. It is at such times that the demise of the village bobby, lurking in dimly-lit shop doorways awaiting the unsuspecting miscreant, is not altogether lamented.

The July meeting has been cancelled. At the day of reckoning, the proposed visit to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands did not muster enough members, so it will go on the back boiler for another occasion. The group meets again in August for our summer walk in Brampton Wood. Look out for details in the Newsletter.

Peter Irving

Charity of the Month **USPG (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel)**

Around the start of the 18th century, Henry Compton the Bishop of London requested Revd Dr. Thomas Bray to report on the state of the Church of England in the American Colonies. Dr. Bray reported that the church in America had 'little spiritual vitality' and was 'in a poor organisational condition'. On June 16 1701 William III of England issued a charter establishing the SPG as 'an organisation able to send priests and schoolteachers to America to help provide the Church's ministry to the colonists'. The society's first missionaries started work in North America in 1702, and in the West Indies in 1703. By the time of the American Revolution, the SPG had employed about 300 missionaries in North America and soon expanded to

Australia, New Zealand and West Africa. The SPG was also important in the establishment of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

In 1820 the SPG sent missionaries to India, and in 1821 to South Africa. It later expanded outside the British Empire, to China in 1863 and Japan in 1873. In 1866 the SPG established the "Ladies' Association for Promoting the Education of Females in India and other Heathen Countries in Connection with the Missions of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel."

In 1895 this group was updated to the 'Women's Mission Association for the Promotion of Female Education in the Missions of the SPG,' which allowed British and Irish women themselves to become missionaries.

In 1965, the then SPG merged with 'Universities' Mission to Central Africa (UMCA)' to form the 'United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG)'.

Today, USPG works in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over fifty countries, helping to support vital church work, including healthcare, education, leadership training and action for social justice. In Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, they enable Anglican Churches to reach out to poor and marginalised communities in practical and life-changing ways.

In practice, this means they are helping local churches to run schools and hospitals, build houses, dig wells, and provide agricultural training for

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subsistence farmers. They also support church outreach, theological training and youth work programmes.

An example of their continuing projects is the work in Bangladesh called *Bangladesh in Focus*. Bangladesh is a country battling against complex problems including illiteracy, disease and a challenging climate.

Bangladesh in Focus is supporting the Church as it runs schools and hospitals, looks after the elderly and raises awareness of the plight of the disabled. It also involves supporting agricultural and environmental projects such as building wells, setting up income-generation schemes and providing skills training for unemployed young people.

In all its work, USPG does not dictate what priorities its partner churches must follow. Instead it encourages shared decision-making among equal partners, and, where grants are provided, they are given on a long-term basis so that churches have a secure financial base from which to plan the future.

Roy Norris

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace.
And your best days are never so good that you're beyond the need of God's grace.

Happy the bride – although there was no sunshine!



Those of us who attended Helen Turrell and Paul Rogers' wedding on 7 June owe Catheryn and Bob Turrell a big debt of gratitude for inviting us into the church hall after the service to toast the newly weds and to be able to verbally give them our very best wishes. It was a wonderful occasion after a most moving service and we were privileged to be part of it.

I first met Helen when she was three years old and Catheryn brought her to Sunday School. I looked with admiration at the lovely little girl with flaxen hair and (so she told me) wearing new black patent leather pumps! She sat concentrating hard on the story with only the occasional surreptitious glance at her new shoes. After the story the children sat at tables and were given paper to draw a picture of what they had heard. I walked round to see how they were coping and was astonished to find Helen, at three years old, had written her full name across the top of her paper. I thought rather ruefully of the seven year olds I had taught who had struggled to achieve this before moving up to Junior

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School! I knew from then on that Helen would 'do well'. After finishing Sunday School she joined the choir and we were delighted to see her every Sunday growing in beauty and confidence. It did not surprise us when she went to university and got a very good degree.

Helen always remained faithful to our church, attending whenever she was home visiting her parents. Soon she was joined by a nice looking, dark haired boy called Paul, and we were all delighted when they became engaged. Joan Jackson (Helen's Granny) had her 80th birthday party for her fellow worshippers in the hall after the service, and Helen and Paul whispered to me then that they were engaged. They obviously wanted to announce it publicly but did not want to intrude on Granny's celebration.

The church was beautifully decorated for the wedding with white, cream and burgundy flowers, so we had an inkling of what the bridesmaids would be wearing. And very nice they looked too. Helen and Paul had obviously spent a lot of time and thought organising the service, which was well appreciated by us all.

We were all moved when Helen and Paul exchanged vows at the altar. I personally felt so full of hope for their future life together. Our love and very best wishes for the future, Helen and Paul.

Jean White

Who's who in the parish

John and Elizabeth Callaghan



Having met in Nottingham, John and Elizabeth were married at St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Fenstanton, at the end of 1964, but did not come to live in Cambridgeshire until 1995. The intervening years were spent living initially in South Bedfordshire and then in Hertfordshire. During 1995 they moved to Brampton and in 2001 to Godmanchester (almost full circle!).

Elizabeth is a primary school teacher and has taught in both the state and private sectors. Prior to retirement in 2003 she held the post of Special Needs Coordinator at Brampton Primary School.

John worked as a surveyor for an international design and construction plc based in North London. This challenging role included four periods of time being spent Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt and West Africa.

During this busy period we were very much involved in Church activities. Our Church at that time was All Saints,

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William in Hertfordshire. It was a joint benefice with St Paul's in Letchworth. John was a Churchwarden for a period, including during an interregnum and Elizabeth played for the hymns on most Sundays. We both served on the PCC. It was also at this time that we were involved with a charity organization in the support of local disadvantaged adults and children.

In 1995 the recession in the UK construction sector brought redundancy and hence our move to Brampton. From 1996 until retirement in 2004 John diversified into the provision of business advice, ultimately managing a team of multidiscipline advisors working in support of challenging Cambridgeshire companies, under a government supported initiative.

The move to Godmanchester from Brampton was made in 2001 and has proved to be a sound decision. We will always be appreciative of the warm welcome we received from the people of Godmanchester and value the many friendships we have made in the last seven years.

We have three adult children, all married with their own families, providing us with seven grandchildren. Their locations cover Cambridge, Bedfordshire and North London, so a considerable amount of travel time is incurred on visits.

Since retirement we keep ourselves busy. We both enjoy walking and gardening. John is keen on photography

with plenty of opportunity in and around Godmanchester. Elizabeth is involved in Keep Fit, Yoga, Brampton Flower Club, St Mary's Flower Guild and Art.

John for the past three years has been an active volunteer at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, working in support of a membership scheme. Also for John a model railway is in the planning stage (for the grandchildren!!).

We believe that people are important and welcome the "Churches together" concept, if it means greater benefit to a greater number of people. We are currently giving our time in support of the Salvation Army's drive to reintroduce the Lunch Club in Godmanchester. This could benefit local people, including possibly some members of St. Mary's Church. However the process of re-establishing the infrastructure to provide this facility is taking time.

Having relocated several times over the years, our desire now is to continue living in Cambridgeshire and in particular Godmanchester.

Your life expectancy **

Life expectancy in Britain has reached its highest level ever for men and women. Boys and girls born now in Britain can expect on average to live to 76.9 and 81.3 years of age respectively. Life expectancy is also at its highest for those who reached 65 between 2004 and 2006. Men who have reached 65 can expect to live for another 16.9 years, and women for a further 19.7 years.

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**Advance notice
St Anne's School Michaelmas Fair
Saturday 27 September
2.00 pm – 4.30 pm
at St Anne's School**

Varied attractions include a bar, BBQ, and teas, together with a cake stall, produce stall, cards, jewellery and second-hand book stalls. There will also be children's rides, giant snakes and ladders and giant Jenga. Any offers of help and suggestions for stalls and other fund-raising activities would be warmly welcomed. Would you like to have a stall? Please contact Kate Robinson (Tel.455421) or Caroline Wheeler (Tel.353992)

Something for all ages – do come along for an enjoyable afternoon.

Proceeds to be divided between the School and St Mary's Church.



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Do you need a new pain-killer? **

Do you ever take pain killers? If so, do you take one for your shoulder, and another one for you knee? Of course not - once the painkiller enters your bloodstream, it goes everywhere, soothing and damping down the pain, and hitting all the right spots.

God works a bit like that on the pain in our lives. He has a prescription for ALL the problem areas of our lives. Most of us carry emotional scars, or a burden, or some heartache, around with us. It may be the trauma of loss, it may be anxiety for our family. It may be uncertainty over our jobs, and our futures.

Whatever it is, God offers us a prescription to help the pain. The psalmist writes: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.' (Psalm 46:1) Jesus added: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28)

This kind of help is real and immediate and there for the asking. We don't have to put up with our dis-ease and struggle alone. God, our heavenly father, is only a prayer away. Not just twice a day, after meals, but whenever we need him.

How to fight those rising prices **

Petrol prices soaring, food prices up, and education costs spiralling out of sight... while incomes are growing at the slowest rate for a quarter of a century.

No wonder we are all feeling the pinch. So here are ten ways to save some money:

1. Switch to supermarket own brands... it could reduce your bills by a third over four months.
2. Buy your fruit and veg at your local market... where prices are about 30 per cent cheaper than a supermarket.
3. Switch off your TV set at night, and lights when you leave a room. You could cut your electricity bill by 19 per cent.
4. Go shopping for food after 7.00 pm, when you will find that perishable goods are cut by as much as 70 per cent. Buy them - and freeze them until needed.
5. Beware expensive branded medication. For example, own brand paracetamol costs 39p, as opposed to the cheapest branded alternative - at £1.59.
6. Change all your light bulbs to energy-efficient ones. Each one reduces your electricity by £7 over a year. So ten bulbs could save you £20 in four months.
7. Only EVER boil as much water in the kettle as you will need. Kettles use a large amount of electricity.
8. Never buy your favourite magazine off the shelf. Take out a subscription - and save up to 80%!
9. Cancel your credit card's payment protection plan, and take out cheaper protection, which you can find on paymentcentre.co.uk
10. Keep your tyres properly inflated. Lower tyre pressure means higher petrol consumption.

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May PCC meeting

Minutes in full of PCC meetings are displayed on the south door notice board. Here are some key points from the May meeting:

Matters arising:

(a) Non-conformists' Burial Ground

No contact had been made by or with Tony Sursham concerning the work he has undertaken. The Secretary would contact Tony for an update.

(b) Admitting Children to Communion

David Busk is awaiting a response from the Bishop. He is also sending a letter to all parents of young children asking whether their child/children should receive Communion.

Appointment of Parish Officials

The following appointments were carried unanimously:

- **Lay Chair** – David Ferris
- **PCC Secretary** – Trevor Weedon
- **Treasurer** – Peter Ballantine
- **Assistant Wardens** – Peter Hartwell, Robert Hurd and Trevor Weedon.

The appointment of all members of PCC sub-committees was approved.

Ely 900 – Mission Action Plan (MAP)

At the beginning of 2009, the Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting the Diocese and it is proposed to give him outlines of all the MAPs being prepared by parishes throughout the Diocese. At the end of 2009, the Archbishop of York will be visiting the

Diocese and the plan is to give him a copy of the completed MAP for each parish. David Busk said he was quite encouraged by this aim to produce a MAP as an aid to our thinking and to develop a streamlined approach to Church activities. It is well known that Churches that grow do a few things very well, so we could be doing less but be more focussed.

Trevor Weedon

And finally . . .

July sees the return of the Lambeth Conference, which means we must all be ten years older... Ever wondered what all these bishops get up to for three weeks? Well, according to their website, every one of the days is packed full of meetings, seminars, visits and exhibitions as well as quiet times for worship and study. There's even a fringe event, which sounds fun. And a separate conference for the bishops' spouses. If wives think they are going to slip away quietly to Oxford Street to store-store while their husbands jaw-jaw they may be disappointed. Not only is the conference no longer held in Lambeth Palace – it's 90 minutes away in Canterbury where there's more space – but the itinerary for the Spouses' Conference is almost as rigorous as the main one. As one bishop's wife was overheard to comment: *'Well really, they might have told us'* www.lambethconference.org. Well worth a visit.

** Articles taken from the on-line Church News Service.

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The Registers

Baptisms

1 June Tanya Ann Louise Clawson

Weddings

7 June Paul Duncan Rogers and Helen Margaret Turrell

14 June Mark Thomas Crawley and Jennifer Ann Coles

21 June Simon Wheeler and Claire Russell

Funerals

19 June Mary Morris

Burial of Ashes

9 June Margaret Dorothy Groves

10 June Dick Clark

The Lectionary

6 July **Trinity 7**
Zechariah 9:9-12; Matthew 11:16-19, 25 to end.

13 July **Trinity 8**
Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

20 July **Trinity 9**
Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

27 July **Trinity 10**
1 Kings 3:5-12; Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Dates for your diary

JULY 2008

Tue	1	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union	St Anne's School
Wed	2	11.00 am	Holy Communion	The Chestnuts
			Vicar away at USPG Conference until 4 th July	
Thu	3	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades Club
		7.30 pm	Deanery Synod	
		8.00 pm	Worship in the Park Music Practice	Baptist Church Centre
Fri	4	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
		7.45 pm	'Rave in the Nave'	Ely Cathedral
Sat	5		Godmanchester Gala Day	
Sun	6	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	Ecumenical Worship in the Park	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
Mon	7	1.30 pm	Stepping Stones	Baptist Church Centre

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Tue	8	7.30 pm	Wives' Group Charity Coffee Evening	Church Hall
Wed	9	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Oak Tree Court
Thu	10	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s	Comrades' Club
		7.00 pm	King's Choir Festival Rehearsal,	Ely Cathedral
Fri	11	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sun	13	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (Preacher: Rt Revd Gabriel Shoji Igarashi, Bishop of Kyushu, Japan)	
		12.00 am	Picnic	Vicarage Garden
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	No Youth Group	
Mon	14	10.00 am	St Anne's Class 3 'Wedding'	
Tue	15	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church Hall
Wed	16		Lambeth Conference begins. Ends 4 th August	
		11.00 am	Holy Communion	Woodley Court
Thu	17	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	St Mary's 0s – 5s Picnic	Vicarage Garden
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group	36 Old Court Hall
Fri	18	7.30 pm	Choir Practice	Church Hall
Sun	20	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		9.45 am	Sung Eucharist	
		11.30 am	Baptism	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
		6.45 pm	Youth Group-Games & Greenbelt Planning	Church Hall/Vicarage Garden
Mon	21	1.30 pm	No Stepping Stones until September	
		7.30 pm	Fabric Committee Meeting	Vestry
Tue	22	2.00 pm	Leavers' Service	St Anne's School
Wed	23	9.45 am	Holy Communion	McCartney House
Thu	24	9.45 am	Holy Communion	
		10.00 am	No St Mary's 0s – 5s until September	
Fri	25	7.30 pm	Choir BBQ	Church Hall
Sun	27	8.00 am	Holy Communion	
		11.00 am	Parish Praise	St Anne's School
		2.30 pm	Baptisms	
		6.30 pm	Sung Evensong	
			No Youth Group meetings until September	
Mon	28	2.00 pm	GMC in Bloom. Judging starts	QE School
		8.00 pm	Worship Group Meeting	10 East Chadley Lane
Thu	31	9.45 am	Holy Communion	

The Editorial Committee meeting for the August magazine will be held on **Sunday, 20 July**. Would you please ensure that material is with one of the following by that date and if possible not later than **Friday 18 July**.

Peter Irving (Editor) 26 Post Street (pjibooks@aol.com)

Joan Jackson (joan.jackson@ntlworld.com)

Victoria Richardson (DIRandVMR@aol.com)

Claire Hurd (esmeuk@yahoo.co.uk)

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